therefore, highly desirable that the trees on the slopes should be carefully protected. The Member suggested that, to ensure a never-failing supply of water, the Palaruvi or the Achenkoil river should be diverted, as, in that case, the construction of large reservoirs now contemplated could be avoided. If it was considered a costly scheme, the people were ready to contribute half the cost. The surplus water, if any, could be made available to the people in the adjoining British District also on payment of a cess.

Their next difficulty was scarcity of money; loans on low interest should be advanced.

In common with other parts of the State, the people of Shencottah also had their trouble in regard to cattle, owing to there being no pasture lands for them. Necessary facilities should also be afforded to enable the ryots to have agricultural implements made or repaired at moderate cost. They might also be collected in Depots and sold to ryots at cost price.

The people were also suffering much on account of want of roads, because they could not carry the agricultural products for sale. It would be better if the important ryots were asked to meet and discuss the subject of roads under the presidency of the Executive Engineer and the Assistant Engineer instructed to prepare a list of minor roads requiring improvement.

The Manure Depot in the taluk was working well. It should be supplemented by the opening of an Agricultural Farm.

There was no definite rule or system under which remission of tax was allowed when there was full or partial failure of crops. The Government should call for periodical reports as regards seasonal conditions and crops as in British India.

In conclusion, the Member suggested that, as the dealings of the people of Shencottah were with those in British India, the weights and measures in the latter should be introduced in the Shencottah taluk, as otherwise the people were put to great inconvenience and hardship.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

52. Agricultural difficulties of the Thiruvalla Taluk.

Mr. V. S. Krishna Pillai (Member, Thiruvalla Taluk) described the condition of agriculture in the taluk and the nature of the difficulties the ryots had in connection with *punja* cultivation. The chief difficulties were the encroachments on *chals* and the registry of such encroachments. The Agricultural Loans Regulation should be so amended as to make it more useful to the poor agriculturists. Manure Depots should be opened in all the rural parts. There should also be more grazing lands for cattle.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the old encroachments already registered, it is not practicable to take any action now. If the local officers are kept informed of the encroachments not registered, they would take the necessary steps. Action has already been taken to amend the Agricultural Loans Regulation suitably. The other suggestions of the Member are noted.

53. Want of facilities for *punja* cultivation.

Mr. Joseph Thomas (Member, Changanacherry Taluk) complained that nothing had been done in the past to help the *punja* cultivators of the taluk. He was aware of the efforts of the Agricultural Department to cultivate, as an experimental measure, *punja* lands on scientific methods. In the meanwhile, a scheme had been started to cultivate 1,000 *paras* of *punja* lands under the auspices of the Agricultural Association which was being formed. It would be highly advantageous if an Agricultural Inspector could be specially told off for the experimental cultivation by the Agricultural Association and for such other agricultural matters as would be of use to the Association formed of the ryots of Changanacherry, Kottayam, Alleppey, and Thiruvalla.

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The Member requested that the Kuttapuzha *thodu* should be cut. That subject had been represented at successive sessions of the Assembly. The people were prepared to pay any cess that might be imposed.

The Mulakkanchira *thodu*, or *Chenal* canal as it was called, also had to be cut to connect Kottayam with Changanacherry. In carrying out that work, the Main Central road at the 90th mile stone had to be cut to a length of about 1,000 feet. The people were prepared to hand over the necessary lands free of cost.

The Member then explained the difficulties of the ryots in the working of Section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation and requested relief being granted.

The following relief measures were proposed:—

(1) The Director of Agriculture or any other special officer should be deputed to stay for 3 months in a central locality in Central Travancore where *punja* cultivation was going on, *i. e.*, from Thulam to Dhanu, his duty being to help the ryots in all operations contemplated under section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation.

(2) To settle disputes in connection with *puravarampus* and to advise and help the ryots generally in all matters of *punja* cultivation, an Agricultural Inspector should be posted.

(3) Applications made under the Irrigation Regulation should be disposed of by the special officer within 15 days failing which the ryots should be at liberty to enter on the particular paddy field where disputes had arisen and carry out the necessary works at the cost of the owner of the field and such cost should be realised as land tax.

(4) Loans under the Agricultural Loans Regulation should be given by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries or on his recommendation.

(5) Manures should be sold to the *punja* ryots on credit and the cost of such manures should be the first charge on the harvest.

(6) A Panchayat Court should be established in the Changanacherry taluk to dispose of Civil suits arising from or on account of *punja* cultivation.

The Member finally complained about the difficulties and hardships attendant on the registration of boats under the Public Canals and Ferries Regulation and requested that boats less than 40 inches in girth in the centre should be exempted from license, just like boats of half a tonnage, in the interests of *punja* cultivators. Lastly, he prayed that the ryots of *punja* lands who formed the inhabitants of the western *pakuthies* of Changanacherry taluk should have another Member for the Assembly as was the case till 1088.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

54. Need for State aid in the matter of Agriculture and Trade in the Shertalay taluk.

Mr. Adichan Narayana Pillai (Member, Shertalay Taluk) said that the means of livelihood of the people of the taluk were agricultural operations in paddy and cocoanut. According to his calculation, the inhabitants of the taluk could have two *edangalies* of paddy daily per head, provided the available paddy fields were cultivated scientifically. But they were labouring under several disabilities. The Member first explained the nature of *kari* lands where paddy was being cultivated. The area of *kari* lands in the taluk was about 18 square miles. As they were unable to put those lands under the plough owing to difficulties of various kinds in spite of the natural fertility of the soil, it happened sometimes that they were unable to get even enough to pay the land tax. He then enumerated the steps taken of late to mitigate their sufferings which, he submitted, did not go far enough to remove their difficulties and hardships. The remedial measures proposed by the Member were the following:—

(1) The canals and water courses between the *kari* lands and ordinary paddy fields should be so maintained as to enable the ryots to take in all the water baled out of those paddy lands.

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